

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/632,494

Examiner

Naum B Levin

Applicant(s)

RAJE ET AL.

Art Unit

2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment (Paper 11/24/2003).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 70-81 and 101-122.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 August 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No. _____ | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to application 09/632,494 and amendment filed on 11/24/2003. Claims 70-81 and 101-122 remain pending in the application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney David E. Cromer (Reg. No. 54,768) on 12/16/2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. Claim 70:

line 9, after "threshold" insert -- , wherein generating said sign-off prototype is performed without using a physical design tool --.

3. Claim 76:

line 8, after "threshold" insert -- , wherein generating said sign-off prototype is performed without using a physical design tool --.

4. Claim 101:

line 5, after "timing" insert -- , wherein creating said physical prototype is performed without using a physical design tool --.

5. Claim 102:

line 2, delete "; and", insert -- . --;

lines 3 and 4, delete "said step of creating a physical prototype is performed without using said physical design tool. ".

6. Claim 108:

line 4, after "circuit" insert -- , wherein creating said physical prototype is performed without using a physical design tool --.

7. Claim 109:

line 3, delete "; and", insert -- . --;

lines 4 and 5, delete "said step of creating a physical prototype is performed without using said physical design tool. ".

8. Claim 113:

line 6, after "circuit" insert -- , wherein creating said physical prototype is performed without using a physical design tool --.

9. Claim 114:

line 4, delete "; and", insert -- . --;

lines 5 and 6, delete "said step of creating a physical prototype is performed without using said physical design tool. ".

10. Claim 118:

line 5, after "circuit" insert -- , wherein creating said physical prototype is performed without using a physical design tool --.

11. Claim 119:

line 3, delete "; and", insert -- . --;

line 4, delete "said means for creating does not use said physical design tool. ".

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 70-81 and 101-122 are allowed over prior art of record.

13. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The examiner finds applicant's arguments persuasive.

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest or render obvious:

A method of performing a design of a circuit, comprising: accessing a gate level design for said circuit; creating a physical prototype from said gate level design, said creating of a physical prototype includes predicting of timing for said circuit and tracking an error in said predicting of timing, wherein creating said physical prototype is performed without using a physical design tool; and creating a physical design for said circuit, said creating of said physical design includes placing and routing elements of said circuit, said creating of a physical prototype is performed prior to said creating of said physical design.

14. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naum B Levin whose telephone number is 703-305-0144. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S Smith can be reached on 703-308-1323. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9318.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

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VUTHE SIEK
PRIMARY EXAMINER